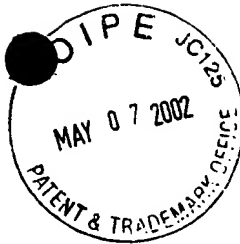


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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
: Examiner: M. Nghiem
HIROSHI YOSHINO)
: Group Art Unit: 2861
Application No.: 09/699,387)
: Filed: October 31, 2000)
: For: INK JET APPARATUS AND)
: WASTE LIQUID)
: ABSORBING METHOD) April 29, 2002

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 27, 2001, the term for responding to which having been extended to Monday, April 29, 2002 by the accompanying Petition For Extension Of Time, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please amend the Abstract as shown in the attached Appendix. The abstract now reads as follows:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on

April 29, 2002
(Date of Deposit)

Dennis A. Duckane, Reg. No. 40,595

Name of Attorney for Applicant

Signature

Date of Signature